

[English]

Hydro Energy Programme

2050. SHRI GOVINDHARAJI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has taken about twenty-five research projects under Hydrogen Energy Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the success has been achieved by this research; and

(d) time by which the outcome of the research will be used as an energy sources and the field of its utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has sponsored R & D Projects covering production, storage, utilization aspects of Hydrogen.

(c) and (d). Hydrogen is a versatile energy carrier and can be utilised for domestic industrial, transport applications as well as in rockets and space applications. Significant laboratory scale results have been achieved in photobiological, photoelectrochemical and electrolysis techniques for production of hydrogen. New hydride materials for storage of hydrogen have been developed and efforts are under way to further improve the storage capacity of such materials. A two wheeler motorcycle has been test-driven upto 25 Kms using the metal hydride storage device at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Tests have also been carried out on hydrogen fuelled small horse power engine utility systems at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Research efforts are underway to improve the technologies and their economic viability which

are likely to yield results for widespread use in the long run.

Corruption in Brahmani Subarnarekha and Eastern rivers Divisions of CWC

2051. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item appeared in the 'sun Times Daily' and 'Samb Oriya Daily' dated May 9, 1991 and may 11, 1991 respectively regarding the corruption in Brahmani Subarnarekha Division and Eastern Rivers Division of the Central Water Commission; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A Chief Engineer of the Central Water Commission has been asked to investigate and submit report in the matter.

Loss in Westland Helicopter deal

2052. SHRI SHANKARRAO KALE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have incurred a heavy loss in Westland Helicopter deal;

(b) if so, the extent of loss and the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to sell these helicopters as scrap; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). There will be no financial loss to the Government as the purchase was